

# West Bend Amity Leather Products Factory

In 1915, Robert H. Rolf founded the Amity Leather Products Company in downtown West Bend. By the mid-1930s Amity was the largest manufacturer of leather billfolds in the country. The Amity Leather Product Company occupied the building (pictured) until 1996, when manufacturing operations were relocated overseas.

In 2001, Stone House Development recognized that the architecturally distinctive factory building might be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Its long, narrow, multistory form, which optimized light and ventilation on the factory floor, also made the building well suited for its new use as apartments. The developer converted the property to thirty-six units and included interior parking for as many cars. The conversion required few exterior changes to the building, while the new interior reflects the industrial historic character of the building by using the exposed steel and timber ceiling structure as a primary design feature.

- WI Historical Society/National Park Service Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit



Photos courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society